

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A reticle manipulating device with an at least substantially closed housing for maintaining clean-room conditions inside the housing, which has several functional units, each of which conducts at least one function for the reticle inside the housing, wherein a first functional unit is designed as an input/output station for introducing and discharging reticles in and out of the housing, a manipulating device also arranged inside the housing for transferring the reticles from the input/output station to the at least one other functional unit and vice versa, is hereby characterized by an interface of the functional unit, by means of which the at least one functional unit can be connected to the reticle manipulating device.

2. The reticle manipulating device according to claim 1, further characterized by an interface with a mechanical and an electrical part, which make possible a detachable connection of the functional unit with the reticle manipulating device.

3. The reticle manipulating device according to claim 1, further characterized by an input/output station, in which several input/output units can be mounted in a detachable manner, wherein a height of at least several of the input/output units corresponds each time to a whole-number multiple of a basic grid size.

4. A reticle manipulating device system, comprising a reticle manipulating device according to claim 1 and at

least one second functional unit, which is different in its construction from the first functional unit, whereby the first functional unit can be exchanged for the second functional unit.

5. The reticle manipulating device system according to claim 4, further characterized by functional units of different types of function.

6. The reticle manipulating device system according to claim 4, further characterized by several functional units of the same type of function.

7. The reticle manipulating device system according to claim 4, further characterized in that a stocking device is provided as a functional unit for the simultaneous intermediate stocking of several reticles inside the housing.

8. A reticle stocker for the intermediate stocking of exposure masks for the production of electronic components, which has a closed housing, in which an intermediate stocking device is provided for the intermediate stocking of exposure masks, is hereby characterized by a reticle manipulating device according to claim 1.